



COUNCIL AGENDA: 3-18-14
ITEM: 11.6

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Ash Kalra

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: March 17, 2014

Approved

Date

3/17/14

SUBJECT: REZONING THE REAL PROPERTY SITUATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF BLOSSOM HILL ROAD APPROXIMATELY 1000 FEET EASTERLY OF SNELL AVENUE ON A 4.05 GROSS-ACRE SITE (393 BLOSSOM HILL ROAD).

RECOMMENDATION

Approve staff recommendation as in conformance with the Envision 2040 San José 2040 General Plan Land Use/Transportation Diagram designation of Neighborhood/Community Commercial for the subject site in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

BACKGROUND

The action before the Council is a standard rezoning to conform the current use of the property to allow for continued indoor recreational use per the applicant's request. This will allow the continued operation of the facility as a skate rink. If the staff recommendation is approved, subsequent uses will have to comply with commercial neighborhood zoning uses. A skating rink does comply with commercial neighborhood zoning, so, nothing about the Council's potential action by itself changes the current operations occurring on the property.

The property has been operating as a skate rink for many years. I recall skating there as a youth when it was referred to as Aloha Skating Rink. The proposed rezoning ordinance does not disallow the current use. In fact, it clearly allows for it. It also allows the property owner to seek a new use as long as it conforms to neighborhood commercial uses. Any suggestion that the rezoning request was done in a manner intended to be out of public view is ludicrous. The planning department staff asked for the applicants to follow through with this conforming conventional rezoning now that our new General Plan is in place. If anyone has a concern about the property's long-term use as a roller rink, they should inquire with the property owner as to their intentions.

Furthermore, this rezoning will prevent residential uses of this property. The possibility of residential uses on the property was of grave concern to the community when there was discussion of the possibility a couple of years ago. I am pleased that by approving this rezoning that I will be able to confirm with the surrounding neighborhoods that there will not be a residential development on this site now or in the future.